



## 2021-22 Basketball Memo –January 4, 2022

**January 04, 2022 Memo #4**

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Best to each of you as we enter a new year and the very competitive conference season. We truly are off to a strong start. Let's continue to build on the strong start.

**Observation staff:** Please review the number of times officials are being observed. Make the effort to observe those without any or very few observations. Be real and honest with feedback. Make sure we are entering all observation comments in online forms in a timely manner. Our officials deserve and appreciate the timeliness.

**Officials:** Be open and receptive to the insight offered and work to improve your game on the areas being suggested. If you have any questions or need further clarity, please reach out directly to me. Our goals are clarity and consistency across our entire state. Always, continued progress, not perfection is expected.

### **FOCUS AREAS AND OBSERVATIONS**

- Visibly counting players coming on the floor (Starters, 3+ Subs, & Time Outs). The thumbs up, eye contact, or pointing is just not good enough. A quick visible count, every time will prevent a mistake.
- Pointing at an arc when the shooter's toe is touching. This immediately reinforces in your own mind that you have a confident decision, it helps communicate to coaches, the table, and fans
- Identifying the shooter eliminates confusion, helps coaches, helps the table, helps the player, and most of all helps the crew. There truly is nothing more embarrassing than making a call and not knowing who it is on. Onus is just as much on the off/non-calling officials for getting the right shooter.
- Reaffirming direction and spot, after reporting and starting the clock for a time out. Let's admit it, this is a very long dead ball, that's why we even blow our whistle to administer a throw in, but it is also the most dangerous time for us to make a mistake. Reaffirming to the official at the spot eliminates making this mistake.
- Talking a technical foul(s) all the way through to the spot and direction of the throw-in allows for time to "appropriately" rotate the crew while keep eyes on players, confirming unsporting acts or the location for point of interruption, and most importantly add calm the situation. It is not just about quickly getting it "behind" you
- Verbally and physically communicate color and number to your crew as to who a free thrower is going to be, before leaving for a time out or returning after a time out.
- A trail with a 10 count needs to follow action leaving the sideline away from them and taking a few steps on the court provides for better angles of seeing through players
- Run the floor with your head turned and eyes on players. You can't see players when your head/eyes are focused on the wall or the end of the gym/arena.
- Do not lean, no matter what. Leaning simply means you should have moved your feet. Tall and poised screams competence and confidence and will increase percentages of seeing the play better to make a correct judgement, call, or no-call.



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- Talking to players is appropriate, however know an officials’ limitation. A coach may have told a player to do exactly something that you are contradicting. It is okay to inform players verbally as prevention, then make a call, if necessary, (because it may have been a coaches’ strategy or ignorance). Enforce and if necessary, clarify to the coach take pressure off the player just in case.
- An official’s presence is key – let the players know “I AM HERE” without specifically coaching them. This will give a player who is wrong and not necessarily gaining an advantage, the opportunity to correct themselves – if not we have to make the call.
- Finally, here is a math equation: Patience = Flow. There is a high probability that if an inside rebounder comes down with the ball, play on. There is a high probability that if there are thirty jump balls, players are not given enough time to “rip”. There is a high probability that if there are fifteen “and-ones” officials lack patience. Remember, you know you have arrived when you can point out how patient you are.

### TELL THE STORY = PROPER MECHANICS

A simple chart for mechanics when calling fouls and violations. Telling the story “makes” everyone confident with your decisiveness, rule knowledge, and most of all, your consistent correct calls. This needs to be executed ever time, whether in a blow out or game that is being tightly contested. Intensity will dictate the animation or “mustard” on the call but be diligent with each of the steps on every call.

Fouls – Get to Reporting Area Before Addressing Table Personnel					
<b>Offensive (Player and Team Control)</b>	Fist (May require wave off)	Behind Head Mechanic	Direction (Point & say color)	Indicate Spot (Throw-In)	Then move to officiate
<b>Defensive Non- Shooting Foul</b>	Fist (May require wave off)	Simple point (bird dog optional, if needed)	The “Call” Accurate & Descriptive Mechanic	Indicate Spot (1 and 1, may be shooting)	Then move to officiate
<b>Defensive Shooting Foul</b>	Fist	Simple Point (Indicate who is the correct shooter)	The “Call” Accurate & Descriptive Mechanic	Number of shots (2 or 3)	Then move to officiate
Violations					
<b>All (Example Traveling)</b>	Stop Clock (Open Hand - May require shot wave off)	The “Call” Signal Mechanic	Direction (Point & say color)	Accurate Spot (Throw-In)	Then move to officiate

***A particular thank you to one of our observers, Joey Liesinger for contributing feedback for this memo and to all our observers for their consistent insight and helpful coaching.***

***It All Matters!!!***



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### **OFFICIALS WHO KNOW HOW TO TAKE CHARGE ARE IN DEMAND**

One thing observers and coordinators look for are lead officials (as in leader, not the lead position) and potential crew chiefs. Leaders are take-charge officials. They set an example by their words and actions. Leaders look at difficult game situations as being black and white. They are not afraid to step up and make tough but correct, and sometimes unpopular, decisions.

Leaders are not afraid to put air in the whistle in those situations. However, be sure the call is 100 percent correct. Don't be afraid to make those tough calls which are often unpopular decisions. Be a take charge person, that does not draw undue attention to yourself and makes the correct decision.

The key to crew success is not letting too many leadership egos step over each other and get in the way of good officiating. If you are a leader and are on the floor with another leader (or two), understand not every official on the floor that evening can be the crew chief. Work together and mesh your respective talents for the success of the crew. Remember, it is not "who" is right, but rather, "what" is right. That delicate balance must be obtained, otherwise officiating egos will adversely impact the game. Over the course of a season and your career, your leadership role and style can and will change from game to game, depending on the respective game's needs and the needs and personalities of your partner(s).

There is a fine line between over-officiating and using effective game management to take control of a situation. That is what separates leaders from the rest of the pack. Do you have what it takes?

### **STOP THE CLOCK**

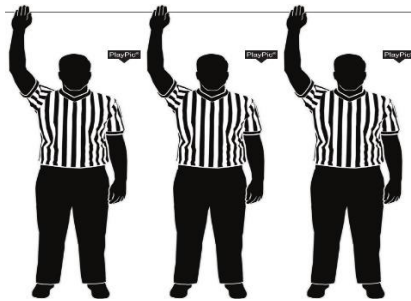
A continued point of emphasis for all levels is the use of proper signaling and stop-clock mechanics.

Officials are instructed to use a proper stop clock mechanic any time they blow their whistle and follow proper procedures for indicating if a violation has been observed or for reporting a foul at the scorer's table.

While officials tend to have a good grasp of using the stop-clock mechanic on a foul, they often forget to use the proper stop-clock mechanic on a violation or when the ball becomes dead.

Officials tend to blow their whistles and begin signaling the violation they observed or point the direction on an out-of-bounds call and forget to first give the proper stop-clock mechanic by raising their arm with an open palm.

Remember, SDHSAA & NFHS mechanics require the official to use the proper stop-clock signal on all violations. Has the point been made?





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### **OFFICIATING RESOURCES LINK**

As we are into the 2021-22 SDHSAA girls' and boys' basketball season please refer to the link below where you will find many officiating resources available. By posting documents and other resources we will have a single site to house and locate materials. If you have any materials you feel valuable and worthy of sharing in these memos or on our website please forward to Jo Auch, Marsha Karst or me for review and publication.

### **NEW POSTINGS:**

1. 2021-22 Basketball Quiz – 20 excellent questions to discuss when traveling with partner(s) or discussing in pre-game of how you will handle when it occurs tonight...

Resource Link: <https://www.sdhsaa.com/activity/basketball-officials/>

### **REMINDER RESOURCE: A BETTER OFFICIAL – YOUTUBE LINK**

Below is a link for relevant, updated teaching, instructional video and narrative solely focused on NFHS rules and mechanics. Please make it part of your growth and development.

A Better Official: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLI4T\\_SHvEVdekqAKvW-rxQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLI4T_SHvEVdekqAKvW-rxQ)